

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC
KAMPUCHEA

REF: (A) STATE 157953 (B) BANGKOK 17849

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE,
SOURCE L. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE L, 16, COMPLETED SIX YEARS OF SCHOOLING IN HIS
NATIVE SIEM REAP BEFORE THE KHMER ROUGE TOOK OVER. AFTER
THE TAKEOVER, HE MOVED TO POUK DISTRICT, SIEM REAP WITH
HIS FAMILY, HIS MOTHER, FATHER AND SIX BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
HE ESCAPED TO THAILAND IN MARCH 1, 1978. HIS STORY FOLLOWS:

3. QTE THE KHMER ROUGE ORDERED US TO WORK IN THE RICE FIELDS.
MY FATHER HAD BEEN A FISHSELLER IN SIEM REAP. AT FIRST, WE
LIVED TOGETHER, BUT AFTER TEN DAYS IN POUK, MY EIGHTEEN YEAR
OLD BROTHER AND I WERE SENT ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS AWAY TO
WORK. WE WORKED IN THE RAINY SEASON AS FARMERS. IN THE DRY
SEASON, WE BUILT CANALS AND FUG DITICHES. WE WORKED FROM
0600 TO 1200 AND THEN FROM 1300 TO 1700.

DURING THE DRY SEASON, WE ALSO WORKED AT NIGHT FROM

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1900 TO 2100.

4. QTE DURING THE DRY SEASON, WE RECEIVED RICE TWICE A DAY.
THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH. IN THE RAINY SEASON, WE ONLY RECEIVED
RICE PORRIDGE TWICE A DAY, ONE TIN OF RICE (250 GRAMS) TO
MAKE PORRIDGE FOR TEN PERSONS. THIS ALSO WAS NOT ENOUGH.
THE RATIONS WERE ABOUT THE SAME FROM 1975 ON.

5. QTE PEOPLE GOT SICK OFTEN BECAUSE OF LACK OF FOOD.
THE SICK WENT TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE THEY RECEIVED MEDICINE
MADE FROM ROOTS AND BARK. MOST PEOPLE CAME BACK.

6. QTE MY BROTHER AND I STAYED IN THAT PLACE TO WORK
UNTIL 1977, WHEN WE WERE CALLED BACK TO THE VILLAGE WHERE
MY FAMILY LIVED, "TO SEE OUR FATHER AND MOTHER."
AFTER A FEW DAYS WITH OUR FAMILY, WE AND 26 OTHER FAMILIES,
78 PERSONS IN ALL, WERE TOLD WE WOULD MOVE TO ANOTHER PLACE,
KOTHASUOS, ALSO IN POUK DISTRICT.

7. QTE ON THE WAY TO KOTHASUOS, WE WERE ESCORTED BY
EIGHT KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS. AFTER FIVE DAYS OF WORKING
IN KOTHASUOS, WE WERE ORDERED TO GO TO ANOTHER PLACE NEAR
THE LAKE TONLE SAP TO PLANT RICE. THE KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS
SAID, "LET'S GO ALL TOGETHER ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS."

8. QTE AFTER WE WALKED ABOUT ONE KILOMETER TO KAN SANG
PI DOEUN, THE KHMER ROUGE SAID, "EVERYBODY MUST STOP HERE.
ALL THE MEN SHOULD GO AHEAD TO BUILD HOUSES." AFTER
ABOUT ONE HOUR, THE KHMER ROUGE TOOK SMALL GROUPS, ABOUT
TEN OR FIFTEEN PERSONS, AT A TIME, ALL IN FAMILY GROUPS.
THE KHMER ROUGE WOULD SAY, "LET'S GO TO A NEW PLACE."
WHILE WAITING, THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE VERY FRIGHTENED
AND WERE CRYING.
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9. QTE THEN MY FAMILY WAS ORDERED TO GO ALONG WITH ANOTHER
THREE FAMILIES. WE WERE TAKEN BY THREE KHMER ROUGE TO A
PLACE WHERE THERE WERE TWELVE OTHERS. THE KHMER ROUGE
POINTED GUNS AT US AND TIED THE ENTIRE GROUP OF US
TOGETHER. THERE WAS ONE OLD MAN, ONE MALE ADULT AND THE
REST WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. WE COULD SEE THAT THE OTHERS
HAD ALL BEEN KILLED. I SAW THE BODY OF MY FATHER IN THE
HEAP. THE KHMER ROUGE SAID, "YOU WILL BE KILLED, BECAUSE
YOU ARE WRONG." WE WERE ORDERED TO SIT ON THE GROUND,
THEN THE KHMER ROUGE BEGAN TO HIT US WITH POLES AND HOES.

10. QTE THE KHMER ROUGE BEAT FIVE OR SIX PEOPLE BEFORE
ME. THEN THEY HIT ME ON THE BACK OF MY NECK AND ON MY
BACK. I FAINTED. THEY THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.

11. QTE I SPENT ANOTHER NIGHT IN THE FOREST. MY HEAD
HURT VERY BADLY. EVEN NOW WHEN IT IS HOT, I HAVE A PAIN
FROM MY NECK INTO MY HEAD. AFTER TWO NIGHTS, I SAW A
MAN FROM MY VILLAGE. HE TOLD ME OF ANOTHER GROUP WHICH WAS
GOING TO BE KILLED. WE DECIDED TO FLEE TOGETHER.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE WE WERE GOING. WE GOT A LITTLE RICE
FROM SOME "NEW CAMBODIANS" WE MET. AFTER TWO DAYS OF

WALKING, WE MET TWO OTHERS WE KNEW, BOTH FARMERS WHOM THE KHMER ROUGE HAD WANTED TO KILL. WE WALKED IN THE FOREST FOR TWO WEEKS BEFORE ARRIVING IN THAILAND MARCH 1.

12. QTE I CANNOT IMAGINE ANY REASON THE KHMER ROUGE WANTED TO KILL THE 27 FAMILIES. WE WERE "NEW CAMBODIANS" (NOT UNDER THE KHMER ROUGE PRIOR TO APRIL, 1975) FROM THE TOWN AND THE KHMER ROUGE DON'T LIKE PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN. WHEN I WAS WORKING IN THE RICE FIELDS WITH MY BROTHER, I HEARD THE KHMER ROUGE SAY, "ALL NEW PEOPLE ARE THE ENEMY." ALL 77 WHO WERE KILLED WERE "NEW CAMBODIANS." NEITHER I NOR MY FAMILY HAD EVER PREVIOUSLY HAD ANY TROUBLE WITH THE KHMER ROUGE.

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13. QTE ALL THE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY WERE KILLED. THEY WERE:

YIM KHUN NUNG, 43, MY FATHER
SENG CHAM, 44, MY MOTHER
YIM SOT NOREN, 20, MY BROTHER
YIM SOT RONNACHOT, 13, MY BROTHER
YIM SOT NISAY, 10, MY BROTHER
YIM SOT MONIKI, 9, MY BROTHER
YIM SOT SEIHAVIRAK, 6, MY BROTHER
O'DONOHUE

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